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STONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956

STONE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the
Stone Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

As directed by the Ministry of Health, I herewith present to you the Annual Report for the Stone Urban District for the year 1956.

From the general body of the report there are several items which should be noted :-

1. An increase in population of the area from 8,710 (1955) to 8,860 (1956).

2. The increase in the number of deaths from Bronchitis from 5 in 1955 to 15 in 1956.

3. The increase in the number of deaths from Coronary disease from 5 in 1955 to 18 in 1956.

I believe that most if not all of the people in the area are aware of the rather startling increase in the number of deaths from Coronary disease which has occurred in recent years. Furthermore, I believe that they are also aware of the connection between this condition and of categories of employment in this modern life which entail lack of exercise or increase in bodily weight. From this it would appear to be a logical deduction that if more attention were paid to the two factors (obesity and lack of exercise), the number of deaths from this cause could be reduced considerably.

I wish to thank the Chairman, Members of the Public Health Committee, the Clerk of the Council, the Health Visitor and the staff of the Public Health Department for the help and co-operation which I received from them during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.J. MURRAY

Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FOR THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health

F.J. Murray D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

C. Arthur M.B., B.CH.

Senior Public Health Inspector
(also Engineer and Surveyor)

E.W.E. Hall, A.R.I.C.S., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector

W.A. Stocker, Cert.S.I.B. Certified Meat Inspector
(Appointed 1.1.56)

Clerks

Miss P. Downs

Miss M. Eyre
(Resigned 21.4.56)

Miss S. Buttery
(Appointed 30.4.56)

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

It is pointed out that a Boundary Extension Scheme was approved and added 316.25 acres to the Urban District Area.

Area (In acres)	1,921
Population (General Registrar).	8,860
Number of inhabitated houses and flats	2,830
Population density per house	3.131
Rateable Value	£91,567
Sum represented by a penny rate	£352

INDUSTRIES

Boots and Shoes	Electrical Insulators
Brewing	Tiles
Scientific and Industrial Glassware	Rubber Mouldings
Farms	Light Industries

GENERAL HEALTH IN THE AREA.

Births and Deaths

The total number of births in the area for 1956 was 120 (116 live births and 4 still births) which is 4 less than for 1955. This gives a live birth rate for the year of 13.09 as against 14.23 for 1955. The figure for England and Wales is 15.7.

5 infants under one year of age died in 1956 which is the same figure as that for 1955. Of these, 2 were under four weeks old (4 in 1955) This gives a death rate for infants under one year of age of 43.1 as against that for England and Wales of 23.8.

There was one death from Puerperal causes during the year.

The number of deaths in the Stone Urban area for 1956 totalled 164 which is an increase of 9 above the figure for 1955. This gives a death rate of 18.5 against the figure for England and Wales which is 11.7.

The number of Stone residents who died during the year, including inward transferable deaths, was 115, which gives a death rate for the area itself of 12.98 (9.45 in 1955).

Infectious Diseases

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year amounted to 9. Comprising 3 cases of Whooping Cough (5 in 1955), 2 cases of Pneumonia (1 in 1955) and 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.(3 in 1955).

In 1955 the number of cases of infectious diseases notified was 105, of which 95 were Measles.

There were no cases of Scarlet Fever, Measles, Poliomyelitis, Erysipelas or Dysentry notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

The following are the number of cases of this disease notified since 1950 :-

1950 - 6
1951 - 3
1952 - 5
1953 - 7
1954 - 8
1955 - 3
1956 - 4

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis either respiratory or otherwise during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year.

I believe that the above figures show a very satisfactory state of affairs. The absence of cases of Diphtheria and the very few cases of Whooping Cough (3) show that the beneficial effects of preventative innoculations against these diseases are now being shown.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action under this Act was taken during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

These figures give particulars of the births and deaths in the area and show the various rates in comparison with those for England and Wales. A complete list of the causes of deaths is included in the report (Table VII).

Table No.I.

	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.		Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Legitimate	48	64	2	2	2	3	1	1
Illegitimate	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
	50	66	2	2	2	3	1	1

Table No.II

Maternal Mortality

	Deaths in Stone U.D.	Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births in Stone U.D.
Maternal Causes excluding abortion.	1	8.3
Due to abortion	Nil	0.00
Total Maternal Mortality	1	8.3

Table No.III

Births and Deaths Rates

Comparability Factors Births - 0.98 Deaths - 0.52

	Stone U.D.	England and Wales
Live births per 1,000 population	13.09	15.7
Adjusted	12.82	-
Still births per 1,000 population (Live & Still Births)	33.3	23.0
Corrected death rate per 1,000 population	18.5	11.7
Adjusted	9.62	-
Death rate of infants under 1 yr. per 1,000 live births	43.1	23.8
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	17.2	16.9

Table No.IV

Confirmed Infectious Diseases

	Under 1	1 +	2 +	3 +	4 +	5 +	10 +	15 +	20 +	35 +	40 +	Total	Deaths
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric, including Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia (acute Primary)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table No.V

Tuberculosis

New cases and mortality during 1956

Age periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 34	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 49	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
50+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Death rate for Tuberculosis - Stone U.D.- 0.000 per 1,000 population
" " " " - England and Wales - 0.487 per 1,000 population.

Table No.VI

Number of cases of Tuberculosis for the district remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1956 from the previous five years' notifications.

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1952	7	5	-	-	12
1953	5	1	-	-	6
1954	4	5	-	-	9
1955	3	-	-	1	4
1956	5	-	-	-	5
			Total number of cases on Register		36

Table No.VII

CAUSES OF DEATH
In Stone Urban District in 1956

Classified according to the Registrar General's Short List of Causes

		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3.	Sylphilitic disease	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-
6.	Meningo-coccal infections	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1
16.	Diabetes	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	8	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
20.	Other heart disease	15	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	2
22.	Influenza	-	1
23.	Pneumonia	-	2
24.	Bronchitis	11	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
31.	Congenital malformations	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	17
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
34.	All other accidents	1	-
35.	Suicide	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-
	All Causes	79	85

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The following table summarises the inspections made during the year for all purposes :-

	Number of Inspections.	Notices Informal.	Statutory.
Drainage	246	10	-
Water Supply	44	-	-
Refuse Collection & Disposal	136	27	-
Improvement Grants	49	-	-
Dwelling Houses - Repairs	375	45	6
" " - Demolition	76	-	-
" " - Slum Clearance	268	-	-
Housing Applications and Overcrowding	258	1	-
Tents, Vans, Sheds.	11	-	-
Canal Boats	5	-	-
Infectious Diseases	12	-	-
Verminous & Dirty Premises	33	-	-
Insect Control	13	-	-
Rodent "	36	-	-
Keeping of Animals	6	-	-
Pet Animals Act	2	-	-
Factories	56	4	-
Workplaces	2	-	-
Outworkers	2	-	-
Means of Escape (Factories)	-	-	-
Petroleum Storage	35	-	-
Smoke Nuisance	20	-	-
Schools	13	1	1
Shops (Health Provisions)	9	-	-
" (Shops Act, 1950)	86	-	-
Dangerous Structures	31	12	-
Private slaughterhouses- Meat Inspection	413	-	-
Butchers Shops	11	2	-
Ice Cream Premises	48	-	-
Dairies	22	-	-
Cafes, Canteens	23	3	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Foodshops and Licenced Premises	246	17	-
Miscellaneous	142	-	-
	2,730	122	7

1. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Samples of the effluent discharged from the Sewage Disposal Works have been taken by the County Health Department and all have complied with the standard suggested by the Royal Commission.

Details of soil and storm sewage 1948 - 56:-

Year	Soil sewage treated at Disposal Works (Gallons)	Storm water treated at Pumping Station (Gallons)	Total Gallons	Rainfall
1948	127,324,000	7,424,272	134,748,272	31.03
1949	122,035,000	9,957,640	131,992,640	23.78
1950	141,294,000	9,274,900	150,568,900	29.22
1951	154,344,700+	13,089,760	167,434,460	32.66
1952	164,902,533+	7,918,520+	172,821,053	27.65
1953	160,102,650+	8,649,280+	168,751,930	25.80
1954	196,430,500+	20,882,800	217,313,300	35.8
1955	159,947,000	10,998,560	170,945,560	27.7
1956	155,283,000+	9,788,360	165,071,360	26.98

+ Includes an estimated quantity for a few days during which meters were not operating. The number of days when this occurred are as follows :-

	Soil	Storm
1951	11	-
1952	5	2
1953	5	40
1954	$3\frac{1}{2}$	-
1956	2	-

A scheme has been prepared for the construction of additional sludge drying beds at the Sewage Disposal Works. The approval of the County Council and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is now being sought for this extension. Work has been completed on the additional sludge digestion tank constructed by direct labour and it is now in operation.

As a result of constant supervision at the Sewage Disposal Works it has been possible to maintain the standard of the effluent discharged.

2. Drainage.

Close attention has been given to all drainage work in progress in connection with new installations and repairs to existing systems. All drainage work carried out is tested and the layout of new drainage systems is maintained at a high standard.

Ten informal notices were served and complied with in connection with repairs to existing drains.

3. Pail Closets and Septic Tanks.

There are now 16 houses with pail closets and 19 houses with septic tanks in the area. During the year the Meaford Crossing Signal Box in the centre of the town was converted from a pail closet to water closet, the Council making a contribution towards the conversion cost. A pail closet emptying service is maintained.

4. Water Supply.

The Staffordshire Potteries Water Board provide the water supply for the town. The excellent bacteriological quality has been maintained during the year. Reports on samples taken are regularly submitted by the Board.

A well serving 4 Council Houses in the boundary extension area of Walton was found to be polluted. Drinking water has been delivered by lorry, pending the approval of a mains extension scheme to serve this area.

44 visits were made to premises in connection with water supply.

New supplies during 1956 - 73 new houses or bungalows were connected to the mains.

5. Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Two vehicles are now operated on this service and a weekly collection is maintained.

The conversion of one area of land to playing fields from land reclaimed by tipping was completed. The second area of land used for refuse tipping at Westbridge Park is rapidly being completed. This area when levelled and covered is also planned to be converted to playing fields and will complete the Westbridge Park playing field scheme.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (Continued).

During the year the supply of covering material was reasonably maintained from road works and the demolition of properties under the Slum Clearance Scheme.

Salvage. The collection of waste paper, cardboard containers and rags is being maintained despite the drop in market prices for these materials. Scrap iron and other metals are collected where possible, but this Authority decided that they would not reclaim metal containers (tins) from the refuse collected.

Table of Salvage Disposal

1. 1. 56 to 31. 12. 56

	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Waste Paper	74.	15.	0.	539.	8.	4.
Cardboard	32.	19.	0.	287.	7.	11.
Rags	2.	14.	2.	57.	2.	5.
Scrap Iron	3.	14.	0.	17.	5.	0.
	114.	2.	2.	901.	3.	8.

HOUSING

6. 60 houses and 11 bungalows were completed during 1956. A further contract was prepared for 23 houses and 12 bungalows which will be completed in 1957.

During the year 32 housing units of new and existing dwellings were made available for slum clearance purposes. Although planning applications are being made to develop private housing estates in the area, as yet there has been no actual construction in this field.

Applications for improvement grants continue to be made and are granted by the Authority. The chief class of property involved is that of owner-occupiers and tenanted houses of a Friendly Society.

Table 1 - Number of houses erected during the year :-

(i)	By Local Authority	- 60 houses 11 bungalows
(ii)	" other Local Authorities	- Nil
(iii)	" private enterprise	- 2 houses
(iv)	" Ministry of Supply	- Nil
		62 houses 11 bungalows

Table 2 - Number of houses owned by the Council on the 31st December, 1956, built under the provisions of the various Housing Acts.

Erected during the years 1919 - 1940	-	276(and remaining in the Council's possession).
1947	-	10
1948	-	72
1949	-	56
1950	-	20
1951	-	6
1952	-	28
1953	-	86
1954	-	54
1955	-	32 + 4 flats
1956	-	71 + 4 transferred
Total Houses, Flats and Bungalows		719 + 4 transferred

7. Inspection and repair of dwelling houses.

During the year 45 informal and 6 statutory notices were served for repairs in private houses. These notices were complied with and the work satisfactorily carried out.

Inspection.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health and Housing Acts)	192
	(b) Number of inspections made for the above purpose	375
2.	Original number of houses in 1 - 5 years slum clearance programme	104
3.	Properties demolished or closed in 1956	42
4.	Remaining in 1 - 5 year programme	62
5.	Number of houses remaining in the 5 - 20 year programme	295

Remedy of Defects.

Number of houses repaired, rendered fit or improved in consequence of formal action	6
Number of dwelling houses repaired, rendered fit or improved in consequence of informal action	44
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit or improved in consequence of voluntary action by owner	18

8. Demolition of dwelling houses.

The 1 - 5 year slum clearance programme was implemented during the year and the necessary accommodation made available for rehousing displaced families. Every effort was made to house families in the particular area of the town and in the type of accommodation they requested.

Number of houses demolished as a result of formal action	24
Further statutory demolition orders served (property to be demolished in the following year)	4
Closing Orders made under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 10 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953	12

9. Overcrowding and rehousing.

The allocation of housing accommodation this year has been divided between the families who have sufficient points to qualify under the points system and the tenants who are rehoused in accordance with the programmed Slum Clearance Scheme. Cases of statutory overcrowding are now very seldom found.

10. Moveable Dwellings.

One area of land has been used for the parking of caravans without consent and statutory notices were served on the owner of the land and occupiers of the caravans. The site was eventually cleared.

Two canal barges were registered following their conversion at the Stone Boat Yard of the British Waterways Authority. Private canal boats are hired out for holiday cruising by a Stone Company.

11. Dirty and Verminous Premises.

Visits were made to 4 dirty houses and the necessary instruction and advice given to secure their cleansing.

12. Rodent Control.

Two treatments were carried out to the sewer system of the town, only minor infestations were found. Regular treatment of the Refuse Tip and other surface installations have been carried out.

Details of treatments other than sewers are as shown in the following table :-

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural.	All other purposes.
Rats.				
Major infestations.	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
Minor "	Nil	64	Nil	1
Mice.				
Major infestations.	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Minor "	1	2	Nil	Nil

13. Pet Animals Act.

One shop licence was renewed for this purpose. No contraventions occurred.

14. Factories.

Number on Register	45
Number of inspections for all purposes	54

4 informal written notices were served to secure improvement or repair to sanitary conveniences, and the necessary works were carried out. No serious contraventions were found.

15. Smoke Abatement.

Regular smoke observations are made during the year and verbal warnings issued where necessary. One written notice was served. One Brewery in the town is in the process of changing over to oil fuel firing and the other Brewery has a completely new coal fired installation under construction.

16. Shops Acts.

(a) Regular visits to shops in the area have been maintained.

(b) 195 inspections were carried out. A separate Shops Acts Report has been submitted to the Council.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

17. Meat Inspection.

The annual licences for 3 private slaughterhouses were renewed and regular inspection is carried out at these slaughterhouses. The meat produced is retailed in 3 private Butchers' Shops. The remaining shops have their meat supplies delivered from adjoining areas.

All animals slaughtered are inspected as soon as possible. Their quality is generally very good.

Meat and Offals found unfit.

1 Ton 17 Cwts 33 Lbs.

Number of Animals Slaughtered.

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
457	34	2237	382

Details of carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part are shown in the following table :-

PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	455	2	34	2237	382	Nil
Number inspected	455	2	34	2237	382	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole Carcases Condemned	Nil	Nil	1	1	6	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	189	-	-	49	13	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	42%	-	3%	2%	5%	-
Tuberculosis Only : Whole Carcases condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	39	-	-	-	12	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	9%	-	-	-	3%	-
Cysticercosis Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned.	2 +	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	2 +	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

+ Same cases.

Cysticercus Bovis

Two bullocks were found to be infested with this parasite. In both cases the offal was destroyed and the carcase subjected to low temperature treatment at the Stoke-on-Trent Cold Store.

Bovine livers were found to be much affected by Fascioliasis and represent almost all of the offal found unfit for human consumption.

There was a slight decrease in the percentage of cattle and pigs infected with Tuberculosis.

All meat surrendered as unfit is coloured green and either forwarded for animal feeding products or destroyed at the refuse tip.

18. Ice Cream.

Number of premises registered for sale of pre-packed ice cream at 31st December, 1956 23

Number of the above actually selling ice cream ... 21

Number of new registrations during the year ... ... Nil

All premises in the district sell pre-packed ice cream. Throughout the year samples were submitted regularly for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :-

Provisional	Grade	1	35 samples
"	"	2	1 "
"	"	3	Nil "
"	"	4	Nil "

These results are highly satisfactory as all samples were up to standard.

19. Milk.

During the year the County Authority have taken the following samples in this area :-

Samples for bacteriological examination - 75
" " biological test for tuberculosis - 11

All the 11 samples tested for tuberculosis proved negative and those submitted for bacteriological examination were satisfactory. 5 samples failedthe Methylene Blue Test.

20. Inspection of Food Handling Premises.

Within the provisions of the New Food Hygiene Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act 1955, all food premises were visited. An explanatory leaflet was given to the owners and occupiers of the premises and their attention was drawn to the works which were necessary to make their premises comply with the legislation. On reinspection most of the improvements had been carried out but it was necessary to serve 20 written notices calling attention to continuing defects. Almost all of the works required were completed by the end of the year.

21. Inspection of Food (Excluding Meat at Slaughterhouses).

The following are the total amounts of food other than meat at slaughterhouses, voluntary surrender of which has been accepted :-

Imported Meat, Canned Meat and Meat Products 75 lbs.
Other Foods ... ... 933 lbs.